



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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EXCO ENDORSES CLOSER MONITORING OF CMB
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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS ENDORSED THE CLOSER MONITORING OF THE CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY TO ENSURE THAT IT MAKES SATISFACTORY PROGRESS IN IMPROVING ITS MAINTENANCE PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES. THIS FOLLOWS CONSIDERATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP ON CMB MAINTENANCE, AS CONTAINED IN ITS REPORT PUBLISHED TODAY.

STARTING IMMEDIATELY, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD HIGH-LEVEL MONTHLY MEETINGS WITH THE COMPANY AND SUBMIT WRITTEN PROGRESS REPORTS TO THE TAC.

+THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR CMB TO MAKE THE NECESSARY IMPROVEMENTS TO ITS MAINTENANCE STANDARDS,+ A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

+UNDER THE PUBLIC BUS SERVICES ORDINANCE, BEFORE ANY FRANCHISE MAY BE EXTENDED, THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL IS REQUIRED TO BE SATISFIED THAT THE GRANTEE IS CAPABLE OF MAINTAINING A PROPER AND EFFICIENT SERVICE. THE PERFORMANCE OF THE COMPANY IN IMPROVING ITS MAINTENANCE SYSTEMS OVER THE COMING MONTHS WILL BE AN IMPORTANT FACTOR FOR THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT IN CONSIDERING ANY EXTENSION OF THE COMPANY'S FRANCHISE BEYOND THE PRESENT EXPIRY DATE OF AUGUST 31, 1987.+

THE TAC WORKING GROUP ON CMB MAINTENANCE WAS SET UP IN AUGUST LAST YEAR IN RESPONSE TO A CALL BY THE JURY IN THE CORONER'S INQUIRY INTO A CMB BUS ACCIDENT IN HAPPY VALLEY EARLIER IN THE YEAR.

UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MR STEPHEN CHEONG, THE WORKING GROUP SPENT MUCH TIME AND EFFORT ON THE REVIEW AND SUBMITTED ITS DETAILED REPORT TO THE TAC IN DECEMBER. BEFORE THE REPORT WAS CONSIDERED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, THE TAC EXAMINED THE COMMENTS ON IT FROM THE BUS COMPANY, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE. THE TAC ENDORSED THE REPORT, WHILE NOTING THAT A FEW OF THE MORE MINOR RECOMMENDATIONS MAY REQUIRE MODIFICATION.

THE WORKING GROUP FOUND CMB MAINTENANCE TO BE LESS THAN SATISFACTORY.

+MAINTENANCE PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES WERE INSUFFICIENTLY THOROUGH AND QUALITY CONTROL INADEQUATE. INSUFFICIENT EMPHASIS WAS PLACED ON THE FORMAL TRAINING OF THE MAINTENANCE WORKFORCE AND SUPERVISORY STAFF. MAINTENANCE SYSTEMS WERE FOUND TO BE POORLY PLANNED, DEPOT FACILITIES WERE UNSATISFACTORY, AND MAINTENANCE RECORDS WERE INCOMPLETE AND DISORGANISED,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

/IN THEIR

IN THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS, THE WORKING GROUP CONSIDERED THAT A CHARTERED ENGINEER WITH RELEVANT PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE SHOULD BE ENGAGED BY CMB TO HEAD ITS ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT AND THAT HE SHOULD BE GIVEN FULL AUTHORITY TO IMPLEMENT THE NECESSARY IMPROVEMENTS TO MAINTENANCE STANDARDS AND FACILITIES.

IN ADDITION, THE ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE OF THE COMPANY AND ITS MAINTENANCE AND DOCUMENTATION SYSTEMS SHOULD BE REVIEWED.

RECOMMENDATIONS WERE ALSO MADE THAT CMB SHOULD ESTABLISH A SEPARATE QUALITY CONTROL SECTION AND SHOULD TAKE CONCERTED ACTION TO TRAIN ITS WORKFORCE, INCLUDING THE RECRUITMENT OF A TRAINING OFFICER.

WITH REGARD TO DEFECTS AND MAINTENANCE WORK WITH FLEET-WIDE IMPLICATIONS, THE WORKING GROUP CONSIDERED THAT WRITTEN PROCEDURES SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED WHICH WOULD ENSURE THAT SUCH WORK WAS CONDUCTED THOROUGHLY AND EXPEDITIOUSLY AND THAT CMB'S DETAILED RECORDS SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

CMB HAS COMMENTED IN DETAIL ON THE REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP, EMPHASISING THAT CERTAIN IMPROVEMENTS SUCH AS THE SETTING UP OF THE CHAI WAN CRAFT TRAINING SCHOOL AND THE ORDERING OF MODERN SPECIALIST EQUIPMENT HAVE TAKEN PLACE SINCE THE 1983 TAC REVIEW. WHILE CMB DOES NOT SHARE SOME OF THE FINDINGS OF THE WORKING GROUP, FOR EXAMPLE WITH REGARD TO ITS CORRECTIVE MAINTENANCE PROGRAMMES, THE QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE OF ITS BUS ENGINEERS, AND THE INFERENCE DRAWN FROM THE DAILY BUS BREAKDOWN RATE, IT HAS ALREADY INITIATED ACTION IN MANY AREAS AND STRESSED THAT IT IS ANXIOUS TO FOLLOW UP ANY REASONABLE RECOMMENDATIONS.

+THE POSITIVE APPROACH BY CMB IS MOST WELCOME AND ANY SUGGESTION THAT CMB HAS CAPITULATED UNDER PRESSURE IS NOT JUSTIFIED,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE REPORT ALSO EXAMINED THE ROLE OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE AND MADE A NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE ON EXISTING PROCEDURES.

ON THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S MONITORING WORK AND ITS EXISTING INSPECTION AND SPOT CHECK PROGRAMMES, THE WORKING GROUP CONSIDERED THAT EFFORTS SHOULD BE STEPPED UP AND INTENSIFIED. IT ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT APART FROM THE POLICE, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AUTHORISED AND STAFFED TO INITIATE PROSECUTION ACTION SINCE IT IS IN A BETTER POSITION TO DETECT MECHANICAL FAULTS THROUGH ITS SPOT CHECKS.

FURTHERMORE, IT RECOMMENDED THAT FINANCIAL PENALTIES SHOULD BE IMPOSED ON CMB FOR BREACHES OF FRANCHISE IF IT COULD BE ESTABLISHED THAT SUCH PENALTIES COULD BE EXCLUDED FROM THE OPERATING COSTS OF THE COMPANY.

THE WORKING GROUP FURTHER CONCLUDED THAT THE CAPACITY OF THE POLICE TO UNDERTAKE INVESTIGATIONS INTO SERIOUS BUS ACCIDENTS SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED. IT RECOMMENDED THE ASSIGNMENT OF A MECHANICAL ENGINEER WITH RELEVANT EXPERIENCE TO LEAD THE MECHANICAL ASPECTS OF SUCH INVESTIGATIONS, AND THAT POLICE OFFICERS AND MOTOR VEHICLE EXAMINERS ENGAGED IN SUCH INVESTIGATIONS SHOULD RECEIVE SPECIALIST TRAINING.

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT GENERALLY ACCEPTED THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP ALTHOUGH IT HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE ADEQUACY OF EXISTING RESOURCES TO MEET THE RECOMMENDATIONS. IT WAS ALSO CONCERNED THAT IT MIGHT BE DRAWN INTO AREAS OF THE COMPANY'S INTERNAL MANAGEMENT IF IT WERE TO TAKE UP SOME OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THEIR PRESENT FORM. ITS ROLE WOULD HAVE TO REMAIN THAT OF MONITORING AND ADVISING THE COMPANY ON THEIR GENERAL PERFORMANCE, ALTHOUGH IT ACCEPTED THAT THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE DONE MORE CLOSELY AND WITH GREATER FREQUENCY THAN BEFORE.

IN THEIR COMMENTS TO THE TAC, THE POLICE WELCOMED THE REPORT AND OUTLINED THE EXPERTISE THAT IS ALREADY AVAILABLE BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE FORCE TO HANDLE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS. PLANS HAVE BEEN IN PREPARATION FOR SOME TIME FOR AN ADVANCED LEVEL TRAINING COURSE IN ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION FOR POLICE INSPECTORS THAT IS DUE TO COMMENCE THIS COMING JULY, WHILE DISCUSSIONS ARE BEING HELD WITH TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ON MEANS TO TRAIN MOTOR VEHICLE EXAMINERS IN THE SPECIALIST MECHANICAL ASPECTS OF ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION. SIMILAR DISCUSSIONS ARE BEING HELD WITH THE AIM OF RECRUITING A QUALIFIED ENGINEER TO SUPERVISE THE MECHANICAL ASPECTS OF INVESTIGATIONS INTO ALL SERIOUS ACCIDENTS. THE POLICE SHARE THE GROUP'S CONCERN ABOUT THE TEMPORARY NATURE OF POLICE POUNDS BUT APPRECIATE THAT LAND AND FINANCIAL RESTRAINTS HAVE DELAYED THE PROVISION OF MORE PERMANENT FACILITIES.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS HAVE ALSO BEEN ASKED FOR ADVICE ON THE TREATMENT OF FINANCIAL PENALTIES FOR BREACH OF FRANCHISE. THE ADVICE WAS THAT SUCH PENALTIES SHOULD NOT PROPERLY BE REGARDED AS OPERATING COSTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING APPROPRIATE FARE LEVELS AND THIS VIEW WOULD BE CONVEYED TO ALL THE BUS COMPANIES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID. HE ADDED THAT THE AG'S CHAMBERS ALSO SUPPORTED THE SETTING UP OF A UNIT WITHIN TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TO INVESTIGATE AND ADMINISTER PROSECUTIONS IN RESPECT OF DEFECTIVE FRANCHISED BUSES.

AT THE SAME TIME AS CMB IS MONITORED CLOSELY ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF ITS MAINTENANCE STANDARDS, THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF WILL CONTINUE CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT BRANCHES AND DEPARTMENTS TO DETERMINE CHANGES IN STAFFING LEVELS AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE REPORT, HE SAID.

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MARINE DEPARTMENT COMPLETES FIRE INVESTIGATION
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A MARINE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ADVISED THIS AFTERNOON THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD COMPLETED AN INVESTIGATION INTO A FIRE ON BOARD A NUMBER OF DANGEROUS GOODS LIGHTERS, WHICH OCCURRED IN THE WESTERN DANGEROUS GOODS ANCHORAGE ON DECEMBER 5, 1984.

ON THE DAY IN QUESTION, A TOTAL OF 10 CRAFT CARRYING DANGEROUS GOODS WERE ANCHORED IN THE WESTERN DANGEROUS GOODS ANCHORAGE.

ONE OF THE VESSELS THE +TSIN TSUN 300+ ARRIVED IN HONG KONG FROM TAIPING, CHINA ON DECEMBER 5, 1984, LADEN WITH 8 194 CARTONS OF FIREWORKS, HAVING A DECLARED TOTAL POWDER WEIGHT OF 603 KILOGRAMS. ANOTHER VESSEL, THE +YUET KONG 365+ ARRIVED IN HONG KONG FROM CANTON, ON DECEMBER 4, 1984, LADEN WITH 11 000 CARTONS OF FIREWORKS, HAVING A DECLARED TOTAL POWDER WEIGHT OF 1 067 KILOGRAMS.

BOTH VESSELS IN QUESTION WERE SECURED ALONGSIDE EIGHT LOCALLY LICENSED LIGHTERS IN THE WESTERN DANGEROUS GOODS ANCHORAGE, WHICH WERE ENGAGED IN THE HANDLING OF CARTONS OF FIREWORKS FOR TRANSHIPMENT THROUGH HONG KONG.

AT 0845 HOURS ON DECEMBER 5, 1984, A TOTAL OF TEN VESSELS WERE MOORED TOGETHER IN A TIGHT CLUSTER IN THE WESTERN DANGEROUS GOODS ANCHORAGE, IN A POSITION APPROXIMATELY 200 METRES DUE SOUTH OF HARBOUR MOORING BUOY A16.

ONE VESSEL, +WAI MOON NO. 7+ WAS AT ANCHOR. THE TWO CHINESE VESSELS +TSIN TSUN 300+ AND +YUET KONG 365+, CARRYING CARTONS OF FIREWORKS FOR TRANSHIPMENT, WERE SECURED ALONGSIDE +WAI MOON NO. 7+, ON THE PORT AND STARBOARD SIDE RESPECTIVELY.

A ROW OF FOUR DUMB STEEL LIGHTERS (WAI MOON NOS. 2, 3, 6 AND 8) WERE MOORED CLOSE ASTERN OF WAI MOON NO. 7. WAI MOON NOS. 2 AND 3 WERE EACH SECURED TO WAI MOON NO. 7 BY NYLON ROPES.

A FURTHER ROW OF THREE DUMB STEEL LIGHTERS (WAI MOON NOS. 4 AND 5 AND TAK WAH) WERE EACH SECURED CLOSE ASTERN OF WAI MOON NOS. 2 AND 3, BY NYLON ROPES.

ADJACENT LIGHTERS IN BOTH ROWS WERE SECURED TO EACH OTHER BY NYLON ROPES, FORWARD AND AFT, AND ALL VESSELS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF WAI MOON NO. 6, WERE MOORED WITH THE FORWARD END FACING IN A NORTHWESTERLY DIRECTION.

INSOMUCH AS TRANSHIPMENT OPERATIONS WERE IN OPERATION AT THE TIME OF THE OUTBREAK OF THE FIRE, IN ADDITION TO WHICH RECORDS OF THE DISPOSITION AND QUANTITIES OF CARGO ON BOARD EACH OF THE SEVEN DUMB STEEL LIGHTERS WERE DESTROYED IN THE FIRE, IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO ASCERTAIN DEFINITELY THE DISPOSITION OF CARGO.

/HOWEVER, OBSERVATION

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HOWEVER, OBSERVATION OF THE LIGHTERS FOLLOWING THE FIRE AND SCRUTINY OF MANIFESTS SUGGEST THAT THE DISPOSITION OF CARGO WAS AS FOLLOWS:

TSIN TSUN 300 : FULLY LADEN WITH 8 194 CARTONS FIREWORKS, ABOUT TO COMMENCE DISCHARGE.

YUET KONG 365 : FULLY LADEN WITH 11 000 CARTONS FIREWORKS, ABOUT TO COMMENCE DISCHARGE.

WAI MOON NO. 7 : UNKNOWN, BUT PROBABLY LIGHTLY LADEN.

WAI MOON NO. 6 : SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITY OF FIREWORKS IN THE HOLD AND ON THE HATCHBOARDS. APPROXIMATELY 25 CARTONS OF PLASTIC LABELS IN THE DECKHOUSE.

WAI MOON NO. 8 : UNKNOWN QUANTITY IN HOLD. APPROXIMATELY 10 WOODEN CASES OF FIREWORKS IN DECKHOUSE.

WAI MOON NO. 2 : HOLD SUBSTANTIALLY FULL OF CARTONS. A FEW CARTONS OF FIREWORKS IN DECKHOUSE.

WAI MOON NO. 3 : HOLD FULL AND AFTER AREA OF HATCHBOARDS STACKED WITH CARTONS OF FIREWORKS.

WAI MOON NO. 4 : HOLD FULL OF CARTONS AND BOXES OF FIREWORKS= SOME CARTONS OF FIREWORKS STOWED ON HATCHBOARDS AT AFTER END.

TAK WAH : SIX 20 FOOT FREIGHT CONTAINERS FILLED WITH FIREWORKS. NO FIREWORKS IN OPEN STOWAGE.

WAI MOON NO. 5 : NO FIREWORKS IN HOLD. A SMALL NUMBER OF BOXES OF FIREWORKS STOWED IN DECKHOUSE.

DURING THE MORNING OF DECEMBER 5, 1984, CARTONS OF FIREWORKS WERE BEING TRANSFERRED FROM WAI MOON NO. 8 TO WAI MOON NO. 6.

AT 1012 HOURS ON DECEMBER 5, 1984, THE PILOT OF A PRIVATE HELICOPTER, FLYING OVER THE WESTERN DANGEROUS GOODS ANCHORAGE, EN ROUTE FROM TSING YI ISLAND, TOWARDS OCEAN TERMINAL, ADVISED KAI TAK AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL BY RADIO THAT A FIRE HAD BROKEN OUT ON BOARD ONE OF A GROUP OF LIGHTERS MOORED TOGETHER IN THE WESTERN DANGEROUS GOODS ANCHORAGE.

HE REQUESTED THE INFORMATION BE PASSED TO THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT. THE FIRE WAS DESCRIBED AS BEING +LARGE+ AND +GETTING OUT OF HAND+ AT THE TIME OF THE REPORT.

/FOLLOWING THE

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FOLLOWING THE OUTBREAK OF FIRE, THE TWO CHINESE VESSELS +TSIN TSUN 300+ AND +YUET KONG 365+, CAST OFF FROM WAI MOON NO. 7, AND, CARRYING A NUMBER OF WORKERS WHO HAD CROSSED OVER FROM OTHER WAI MOON LIGHTERS, LEFT THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY.

MOORING LINES SECURING THE BURNING LIGHTERS TO WAI MOON NO. 7 WERE LET GO AND LIGHTERS WAI MOON NOS. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 AND 8 AND TAK WAH DRIFTED SOUTHEASTWARDS, INITIALLY REMAINING CLOSE TOGETHER IN A GROUP, AND THEN DRIFTED APART AS THE REMAINING MOORING ROPES WERE BURNED BY THE FIRE.

FIRE SPREAD FROM WAI MOON NO. 6 SUCCESSIVELY ACROSS THE FIRST ROW OF LIGHTERS TO WAI MOON NOS. 8, 2 AND 3, AND THEN TO WAI MOON NO. 4, TAK WAH AND WAI MOON NO. 5, IN THE SECOND ROW.

A NUMBER OF EXPLOSIONS OCCURRED DURING THE EARLY STAGES OF THE FIRE AND NUMEROUS FIREWORKS DISCHARGED INTO THE AIR LANDING ON LIGHTERS AND IN THE SEA.

BY 1015 HOURS, WAI MOON NO. 3 WAS BROUGHT TO ANCHOR, WHILST THE REMAINING BURNING LIGHTERS DRIFTED APART IN A SOUTHEASTERLY DIRECTION.

FLAMES, EXTENDING TO AN ESTIMATED HEIGHT OF 30 METRES, WERE FANNED BY A NORTH-WESTERLY WIND AND BY 1018 HOURS SMOKE ROSE TO AN ESTIMATED HEIGHT OF APPROXIMATELY 610 METRES. BY 1020 HOURS A NUMBER OF MARINE DEPARTMENT LAUNCHES HAD ARRIVED ON THE SCENE AND WERE ENGAGED IN THE RESCUE OF SURVIVORS FROM THE HARBOUR, IN CONJUNCTION WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER GOVERNMENT AND COMMERCIAL VESSELS. A TOTAL OF 12 PERSONS, INCLUDING ONE IN AN UNCONSCIOUS STATE, WERE TAKEN ON BOARD MARINE DEPARTMENT LAUNCH NO. 45 BY 1050 HOURS. FIRE BOAT +ALEXANDER GRANTHAM+ ARRIVED ON THE SCENE AT 1026 HOURS AND COMMENCED FIRE FIGHTING OPERATION WITH WATER JETS.

FOLLOWING A RAPID RESPONSE FROM A NUMBER OF MARINE DEPARTMENT LAUNCHES ORDERED TO THE SCENE, THOSE SUITABLY EQUIPPED COMMENCED FIGHTING THE FIRE ON THE BURNING LIGHTERS WITH WATER JETS. A NUMBER OF MARINE DEPARTMENT LAUNCHES TOOK THE BURNING LIGHTERS IN TOW, AND BY 1318 HOURS, SIX LIGHTERS WERE SECURED ALONGSIDE WESTERN RECLAMATION, WHERE THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TOOK OVER FIRE FIGHTING OPERATIONS FROM THE SEAWALL. THE SEVEN BURNING LIGHTERS WERE SECURED IN THE SAME LOCATION AT 1500 HOURS.

MR KWAN KAM-SHING, AGED 35 YEARS, WHO HAD BEEN WORKING IN THE HOLD OF WAI MOON NO. 8, AT THE TIME OF THE OUTBREAK OF THE FIRE, WAS UNCONSCIOUS WHEN RESCUED FROM THE SEA. HE WAS CERTIFIED DEAD ON ARRIVAL AT QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL. NO EXTERNAL WOUNDS WERE PRESENT ON MR KWAN'S BODY.

TEN PERSONS WERE INJURED AND TREATED IN HOSPITAL.

/IMMEDIATELY PRIOR

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IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE OUTBREAK OF THE FIRE, AND AS PREVIOUSLY STATED, CARGO WAS BEING TRANSHIPPED FROM WAI MOON NO. 8 TO WAI MOON NO. 6. NYLON STRAP SLINGS WERE USED FOR LIFTING THE CARGO AND EACH SLING WAS LOADED WITH APPROXIMATELY 40 CARTONS OF FIREWORKS.

THE INVESTIGATION HAS ESTABLISHED THAT AT APPROXIMATELY 1000 HOURS A SLING OF FIREWORKS WAS LIFTED OUT OF THE HOLD OF WAI MOON NO. 8, USING THE CARGO DERRICK OF WAI MOON NO. 6.

WHEN THE SLING WAS OVER THE SIDE OF WAI MOON NO. 6, A CARTON OF FIREWORKS FELL FROM THE SLING ONTO THE DECK OF WAI MOON NO. 6 AND IMPACTED ON THE PORT SIDE NEAR THE AFTER END OF THE CARGO HATCH, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING UPON WHICH A FIRE BROKE OUT.

HAVING REGARD TO THE FOREGOING, THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR CHAN YUE-YAN, J.P., HAS ORDERED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE THE QUESTION OF HANDLING AND TRANSHIPPING SUCH COMMODITIES THROUGH HONG KONG.

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LISTING RULES FOR STOCK TRADING SET OUT
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IN APRIL 1984, PROPOSED LISTING RULES WERE PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES, AND SUBMITTED FOR COMMENT BY INTERESTED PARTIES, NAMELY THE STOCK EXCHANGES, LEGAL ACCOUNTING AND STOCKBROKING BODIES, ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS, BANKS, FINANCIAL PUBLICATIONS AND A LARGE NUMBER OF PUBLIC LISTED COMPANIES. BASED ON THE MANY COMMENTS RECEIVED, DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS WERE PREPARED AND, AFTER APPROVAL BY THE SECURITIES COMMISSION, WERE FORWARDED TO THE LAW DRAFTSMAN.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES, MR RAY ASTIN, TODAY ANNOUNCED THE PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT SECURITIES (STOCK EXCHANGE LISTING) RULES 1985. THIS DRAFT DIFFERS IN SOME MATERIAL RESPECTS FROM THE APRIL 1984 VERSION. ACCORDINGLY, THE SECURITIES COMMISSION HAS DECIDED THAT IT SHOULD ALSO BE SUBMITTED FOR CONSULTATION AS DONE EARLIER. SUBJECT TO ANY AMENDMENT CONSIDERED DESIRABLE IN THE LIGHT OF FURTHER COMMENTS RECEIVED, IT IS PROPOSED TO SUBMIT THE DRAFT FOR FORMAL APPROVAL BY THE SECURITIES COMMISSION IN MAY 1985. SUBJECT TO THE VIEWS OF THE SECURITIES COMMISSION, THE DRAFT 1985 RULES WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL FOR DECISION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THEREAFTER.

/A SUMMARY

A SUMMARY OF THE MAJOR PROVISIONS OF THE PROPOSED SECURITIES (STOCK EXCHANGE LISTING) RULES 1985 FOLLOWS:

SECURITIES (STOCK EXCHANGE LISTING) RULES 1985
SUMMARY OF MAJOR PROVISIONS

THE RULES SET OUT CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES IN CONNECTION WITH APPLICATIONS FOR THE LISTING OF SECURITIES ON STOCK EXCHANGES. THE RULES ALSO INTRODUCE FURTHER STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS FOR INCREASED DISCLOSURE OF IMPORTANT COMPANY INFORMATION.

LISTING APPLICATIONS

A COMPANY SEEKING A LISTING OF ITS SECURITIES ON A STOCK EXCHANGE MUST COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE STATUTORY LISTING RULES AS WELL AS THE LISTING EXCHANGE. THE 1985 RULES REQUIRE THE LISTING APPLICATION TO CONTAIN SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO ENABLE AN INFORMED ASSESSMENT TO BE MADE OF THE COMPANY, TOGETHER WITH DETAILS OF THE SECURITIES TO BE LISTED, THE MANNER OF THEIR ISSUE, THE IDENTITY OF SUBSTANTIAL SHAREHOLDERS OF THE COMPANY OR ITS PARENT COMPANY, THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE COMPANY'S DIRECTORS AND, CHIEF EXECUTIVE (RULE 3). COPIES OF A LISTING APPLICATION TOGETHER WITH SUPPORTING PROSPECTUS MUST BE SERVED ON THE COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES (RULE 4). THE COMMISSIONER MAY DIRECT A STOCK EXCHANGE TO SUSPEND DEALINGS IN THE SECURITIES OF A COMPANY IF IT HAS FAILED TO COMPLY WITH THE VARIOUS REQUIREMENTS (RULE 5).

THE RULES DO NOT SUPPLANT THE ROLE OF THE LISTING EXCHANGE. ON THE CONTRARY THEY ARE SUPPLEMENTAL TO, AND SUPPORTIVE OF, THE ESSENTIAL ROLE PLAYED BY THE EXCHANGES. IN SOME RESPECTS THEY MERELY FORMALISE PROCEDURES THAT HAVE LONG BEEN ACCEPTED IN PRACTICE.

SUSPENSIONS AND CANCELLATIONS

THE COMMISSIONER MAY DIRECT A STOCK EXCHANGE TO SUSPEND DEALINGS IN SECURITIES, IF IT APPEARS TO HIM THAT THIS IS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN AN ORDERLY MARKET. HOWEVER IN THIS CASE AND IN ANY OTHER CASE WHERE HE DIRECTS A SUSPENSION, HE MUST FORMALLY REPORT THIS TO THE COMMISSION GIVING NOTICE TO THE AFFECTED COMPANY AT THE SAME TIME. AFTER CONSIDERING THE COMMISSIONER'S REPORT AND ANY REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY THE COMPANY CONCERNED, THE COMMISSION MAY AS APPROPRIATE DIRECT THAT THE SUSPENSION BE LIFTED SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS, THAT THE SUSPENSION SHOULD REMAIN IN FORCE OR THAT THE LISTING BE CANCELLED.

STATUTORY UNDERTAKING

LISTED COMPANIES WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER INTO AN UNDERTAKING WITH THE LISTING EXCHANGE IN THE FORM PRESCRIBED BY THE RULES. THE COMMISSIONER HAS POWER TO AUTHORISE AMENDMENT OF THIS STATUTORY UNDERTAKING IN AN APPROPRIATE CASE. EXISTING LISTED COMPANIES MUST ENTER THE PRESCRIBED UNDERTAKING WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE RULES (RULE 17).

THE PRESCRIBED UNDERTAKING DOES NOT SUPERSEDE ANY PREVIOUS UNDERTAKING ENTERED INTO BY A LISTED COMPANY WITH A STOCK EXCHANGE, AND A STOCK EXCHANGE MAY REQUIRE A LISTED COMPANY TO ENTER INTO A FURTHER UNDERTAKING ON OTHER MATTERS IF IT SO WISHES.

THE COMMISSIONER MAY DIRECT A STOCK EXCHANGE TO SUSPEND DEALINGS IN THE SECURITIES OF A COMPANY WHICH HAS FAILED TO ENTER INTO THE STATUTORY UNDERTAKING OR FAILED TO COMPLY WITH ITS TERMS (RULE 9).

REQUIREMENTS UNDER STATUTORY UNDERTAKING

THE FORM OF THE STATUTORY UNDERTAKING IS SET OUT IN THE SCHEDULE TO THE RULES. IT REQUIRES LISTED COMPANIES TO MAKE TIMELY DISCLOSURE TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES, THE LISTING EXCHANGE AND ITS SHAREHOLDERS OF MATERIAL INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE COMPANY AND TO THE MARKET PRICE OF ITS SECURITIES. LISTED COMPANIES ARE ALSO REQUIRED TO SUPPLY COPIES OF ANNUAL AND INTERIM REPORTS WHICH MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT GIVING SPECIFIED INFORMATION, SUCH AS THEIR PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES, TRADING RESULTS, SHARE AND LOAN CAPITAL, INDEBTEDNESS, AND SHARES HELD IN THEM BY THEIR DIRECTORS, CHIEF EXECUTIVES AND THEIR ASSOCIATES.

IN ADDITION, LISTED COMPANIES ARE REQUIRED TO DISCLOSE BY WAY OF PRESS RELEASE AND SUBSEQUENT CIRCULAR DETAILS OF CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS, NAMELY CHANGES IN THE CHARACTER OF THE COMPANY'S BUSINESS, THE ACQUISITION OR DISPOSITION OF SUBSIDIARIES, TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING THE COMPANY'S ACQUISITION OR DISPOSAL OF SUBSTANTIAL ASSETS, AND TRANSACTIONS BETWEEN THE COMPANY AND ITS DIRECTORS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OR THEIR ASSOCIATES. ESSENTIALLY A TRANSACTION IS 'SUBSTANTIAL' IF IT INVOLVES ASSETS EXCEEDING 15 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF THE COMPANY'S CONSOLIDATED ASSETS (EXCLUDING CURRENT AND INTANGIBLE ASSETS). ADDITIONALLY, A PROPERTY COMPANY IS REQUIRED TO DISCLOSE TRANSACTIONS WHICH INVOLVE PROPERTY ACQUISITIONS OR DISPOSALS, WHERE THE ASSETS CONCERNED EXCEED 20 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF ALL PROPERTY OWNED BY IT OR ITS GROUP PRIOR TO THE TRANSACTION.

WAIVER

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WAIVER

THE COMMISSIONER MAY WAIVE THE REQUIREMENT OF ANY PROVISION OF THE RULES OR THE STATUTORY UNDERTAKING. HE MAY DO SO IF HE CONSIDERS THAT A COMPANY CANNOT COMPLY WITH SUCH A PROVISION OR THAT IT WOULD BE UNREASONABLE FOR IT TO DO SO. IN EXTENDING SUCH A WAIVER, THE COMMISSIONER MAY IMPOSE SUCH REASONABLE CONDITIONS AS HE THINKS FIT (RULE 15).

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MACAU GOVERNOR TO PAY RETURN VISIT

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THE GOVERNOR OF MACAU, REAR ADMIRAL ALMEIDA E COSTA WILL BE PAYING AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO HONG KONG ON FRIDAY, APRIL 26, AT THE INVITATION OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE.

THE OCCASION WILL BE A RETURN VISIT WHICH THE MACAU GOVERNOR WAS TO HAVE MADE IN AUGUST LAST YEAR, BUT WHICH HAD TO BE POSTPONED DUE TO BAD WEATHER.

EXCHANGES OF VISITS BETWEEN THE GOVERNORS OF HONG KONG AND MACAU HAVE BEEN CUSTOMARY FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS.

THE MACAU GOVERNOR, WHO WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY MADAM ALMEIDA E COSTA, WILL ARRIVE BY JETFOIL AT THE MACAU FERRY PIER IN THE MORNING, AND WILL BE MET BY SIR EDWARD YOUDE, AND LADY YOUDE.

ON ARRIVAL AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE LATER IN THE MORNING, REAR ADMIRAL ALMEIDA E COSTA WILL BE BRIEFED BY SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN HONG KONG.

AFTER LUNCH AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE, REAR ADMIRAL ALMEIDA E COSTA WILL TOUR THE TERRITORY BY HELICOPTER AND VISIT SHA TIN.

REAR ADMIRAL ALMEIDA E COSTA AND MADAM ALMEIDA E COSTA WILL RETURN TO MACAU IN THE EVENING.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

PRESS ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MACAU GOVERNOR'S VISIT WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

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HOUSING MANAGEMENT GOES THE COMPUTER WAY
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A NEW COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEM CAME INTO USE TODAY AT THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, PROVIDING READY ASSISTANCE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF ITS LARGE STOCK OF COMMERCIAL AND NON-DOMESTIC PROPERTIES.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HOUSING (ESTATE MANAGEMENT), MR FUNG TUNG, PRESSED THE KEYBOARDS AT A CEREMONY TO START THE LIVE-RUN OF THE COMMERCIAL AND NON-DOMESTIC TENANCIES MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (CANTMIS).

CANTMIS PROVIDES FOR READY USE AT FINGERTIPS COMPREHENSIVE DATA OF MORE THAN 40 000 COMMERCIAL AND NON-DOMESTIC PROPERTIES INCLUDING SHOPS, SHOPSTALLS, COOKED-FOOD STALLS, SCHOOLS AND WELFARE PREMISES.

THROUGH DATA MANIPULATION FOR VARIOUS MANAGEMENT PURPOSES, THE COMPUTER SYSTEM IS ABLE TO CUT DOWN HOUSING STAFF'S WORKLOAD, THUS ENABLING THEM TO CONCENTRATE MORE ON DOMESTIC TENANTS IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

+AMONG OTHER THINGS, CANTMIS CHECKS ON DUPLICATION OF COMMERCIAL TENANCIES AND BRINGS UP REGULAR LETTING POSITION OF THE PREMISES,+ SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT TODAY.

HE SAID THE SYSTEM WOULD ENABLE THE DEPARTMENT TO HAVE A MORE COMPREHENSIVE LOOK AT THE RENT STRUCTURE OF COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES FOR RENT REVIEW PURPOSES.

+IT PROVIDES FOR MORE RESEARCH STUDIES ON THE RENT LEVELS OF PARTICULAR TRADES IN CERTAIN DISTRICTS SO THAT READY REFERENCE CAN BE DRAWN.

+APART FROM AUTOMATICALLY BRINGING UP COMMERCIAL TENANCIES FOR RENT REVIEWS, CANTMIS ALSO MAKES MONTHLY RENT COLLECTION PRINTOUTS.+

MEANWHILE, TWO OTHER COMPUTER SYSTEMS ARE BEING DEVELOPED WHICH WILL HELP INCREASE EFFICIENCY IN THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LARGE PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME.

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RULES SET OUT FOR FUND-RAISING IN SCHOOLS
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SCHOOLS ARE REMINDED IN A RECENT CIRCULAR THAT THEY MUST OBSERVE CERTAIN RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS.

IN THE CIRCULAR, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT POINTS OUT THAT THE ONLY FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES PERMITTED IN SCHOOLS ARE THE ANNUAL CAMPAIGNS OF THE TUBERCULOSIS AND THORACIC DISEASES ASSOCIATION AND THE COMMUNITY CHEST, AND COLLECTIONS ORGANISED FOR SPECIFICALLY APPROVED SCHOOL OR CHARITABLE PURPOSES.

CERTAIN PERMITS AND LICENCES WILL HAVE TO BE OBTAINED WHEN ORGANISING PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT, SUCH AS CONCERTS, BAZAARS, STAGE PLAYS, FILM SHOWS, STAGE PERFORMANCES OR OTHER ACTIVITIES AS DEFINED IN THE PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT ORDINANCE WITHIN THE SCHOOL PREMISES IN CONNECTION WITH APPROVED FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGNS.

A PERMIT MUST BE OBTAINED FROM THE COMMISSIONER FOR TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING TO ADVERTISE, PRESENT OR TO CARRY ON SUCH PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT. A LICENCE FROM THE LICENSING AUTHORITY (URBAN COUNCIL FOR URBAN AREAS AND THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL IN THE NEW TERRITORIES) MUST ALSO BE OBTAINED TO KEEP OR USE ANY PLACE OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT.

SPECIAL PERMISSION MUST BE SOUGHT FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE FOR ACTIVITIES WHICH INCLUDE THE SELLING OF LIQUOR, THE USE OF STARTING PISTOLS OR SHOOTING STALLS WHERE AIR RIFLES ARE USED.

APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS OR LICENCES MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE AUTHORITIES CONCERNED AT LEAST 18 DAYS BEFORE THE START OF THE FUNCTIONS.

FIRE SERVICES REQUIREMENTS MUST ALSO BE COMPLIED WITH IN CONNECTION WITH PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT OR STAGE PERFORMANCES.

DOOR-TO-DOOR COLLECTIONS AND PUBLIC SOLICITATION OF SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE PROHIBITED UNLESS COVERED BY A PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION PERMIT OBTAINED FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE.

IN THE CASE OF WALKATHONS, PRIOR PERMISSION MUST BE OBTAINED FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE. IF THE EVENT INVOLVES ANY RAISING OF FUNDS IN PUBLIC, THE SCHOOLS MUST ALSO OBTAIN A PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION PERMIT.

MOREOVER, IF SCHOOLS WISH TO PUBLICISE THE ACTIVITIES WITH BILLS OR POSTERS, THEY ARE ADVISED TO OBSERVE THE RELEVANT SECTION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES ORDINANCE.

/SCHOOLS ARE

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SCHOOLS ARE ALSO REMINDED OF THE STANDING REQUIREMENTS LISTED IN THE EDUCATION REGULATIONS 1971 WHICH PROHIBIT COLLECTIONS OR APPEALS FOR SUBSCRIPTION AMONG PUPILS WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION.

A FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICER CONCERNED FOR EXAMINATION WITHIN TWO MONTHS AFTER THE COMPLETION OF EACH ACTIVITY.

ALL FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES MUST BE ON AN ENTIRELY FREE AND VOLUNTARY BASIS, AND IN COMMUNICATIONS TO PARENTS THERE MUST BE NO SUGGESTION THAT A STUDENT'S OR AN APPLICANT'S STANDING IS IN ANY WAY RELATED TO THE CONTRIBUTIONS THE PARENTS MIGHT MAKE, NOR SHOULD ANY PARTICULAR AMOUNT BE SUGGESTED.

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BILLIARD SALOON GETS LICENCE - WITH SPECIAL RIDER
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A BILLIARD SALOON ON TSING YI ISLAND WOULD HAVE TO ABIDE BY SPECIAL OPERATIONAL CONDITIONS AS A PROVISIO FOR THE GRANTING OF A LICENCE TO MINIMISE ANY LIKELY NUISANCE IT MIGHT CREATE TO NEARBY RESIDENTS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE PROVISIO WOULD BE IN THE FORM OF A SPECIAL RIDER ADDED TO THE LICENCE STIPULATING THAT THE BILLIARD SALOON IN MAYFAIR GARDENS MUST NOT OPERATE BEYOND MIDNIGHT.

+BECAUSE OF THE OBJECTIONS RAISED BY SOME RESIDENTS AGAINST THE PRESENCE OF A BILLIARD SALOON IN THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD, THE LICENSING AUTHORITY HAD UNDERTAKEN A MOST SCRUPULOUS AND FAIR EXAMINATION OF ALL THE ISSUES INVOLVED BEFORE THE DECISION WAS TAKEN TO GRANT THE LICENCE.

+THIS PAINSTAKING EXERCISE INCLUDED A METICULOUS SURVEY ON THE GENERAL ACTIVITY OF PEOPLE AND MOVEMENT OF VEHICLES AT ITS VICINITY AT NIGHT TIME, WHICH SHOWED A DIMINUTION OF ACTIVITY AFTER MIDNIGHT. ACCORDINGLY, THE AUTHORITY HAD STIPULATED THAT THE SALOON MUST CLOSE ITS DOORS BY MIDNIGHT AT THE LATEST,+ THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

IN RESPONSE TO THE OBJECTIONS RAISED BY RESIDENTS OVER THIS ISSUE, THE FORMER DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES, MR GRAHAM BARNES, AS THE LICENSING AUTHORITY, HAD PERSONALLY EXAMINED THE VARIOUS FACTORS CONCERNED.

/THIS INCLUDED

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THIS INCLUDED A MEETING ON DECEMBER 14 WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF A TENANTS' COMMITTEE TO HEAR THEIR REASONS FOR OBJECTING. IT WAS AFTER THIS THAT A SURVEY OF THE AREA IN WHICH THE BILLIARD SALOON WILL OPERATE WAS CONDUCTED.

+MR BARNES ALSO MADE VISITS AT NIGHT TO TSING YI ISLAND TO SEE FOR HIMSELF THE CONDITIONS IN WHICH THE SALOON WILL OPERATE.

+TO FURTHER ACQUAINT HIMSELF WITH THE USUAL CONDITIONS INSIDE BILLIARD SALOONS AND THE TYPE OF CLIENTELE THEY ATTRACT, MR BARNES VISITED A NUMBER OF TYPICAL BILLIARD SALOONS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE HARBOUR. HE ALSO CONSULTED THE POLICE ABOUT THE INCIDENCE OF CRIME ASSOCIATED WITH BILLIARD SALOONS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO POINTED OUT THAT, ALTHOUGH INITIAL TESTS HAD SHOWN THAT THE SALOON'S AIR-CONDITIONING PLANT WOULD HAVE CREATED A NOISE NUISANCE, THE BILLIARD SALOON LICENCE APPLICANT HAD SINCE MADE ADJUSTMENTS AND THE NOISE LEVEL WAS NOW ACCEPTABLE.

IT HAS, IN FACT, FULFILLED ALL THE USUAL AND RELEVANT LICENSING REQUIREMENTS, INCLUDING FIRE SAFETY REGULATIONS.

+THE OVERHEAD SPRINKLER SYSTEM AND OTHER FIRE SERVICES INSTALLATIONS HAVE BEEN FOUND BY THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO BE SATISFACTORY. AND NOW THAT ALL REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN COMPLIED WITH, A LICENCE WILL BE ISSUED TO THE APPLICANT,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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SQUATTER CONTROL SQUADS REMAIN ON WATCH

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THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT'S SQUATTER CONTROL SQUADS WILL REMAIN ON THE WATCH AGAINST ILLEGAL HUT-BUILDING AND CONVERSION ACTIVITIES OVER THE EASTER HOLIDAY.

+THEY WILL CONTINUE PATROLLING SQUATTER AREAS, PARTICULARLY THE BLACK-SPOTS, DURING THE FOUR-DAY HOLIDAY,+ SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT TODAY.

HE SAID ANY NEW SQUATTER STRUCTURES OR EXTENSIONS DISCOVERED WOULD BE DEMOLISHED AND THE PEOPLE INVOLVED WOULD BE LIABLE TO PROSECUTION.

+HOUSING STAFF WILL KEEP PARTICULAR WATCH ON ILLEGAL CONVERSION OF SURVEYED STRUCTURES OF WHICH THEY ALREADY HAVE FULL RECORDS ON THE DIMENSIONS AND USAGE.+

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YUEN LONG DB ELECTS NEW CHAIRMAN
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MR TAI KUEN WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD AT A MEETING THIS MORNING.

ALSO AT THE MEETING, MR TANG NAI-MAN WAS ELECTED THE BOARD'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL.

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ENROLMENT IN LEARN-TO-SWIM TO START
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THE URBAN COUNCIL'S POPULAR +LEARN-TO-SWIM+ COURSES WILL BE ABLE TO ACCEPT MORE THAN 10 230 PARTICIPANTS THIS YEAR.

ALTOGETHER, 341 CLASSES DIVIDED INTO SIX SERIES WILL BE ORGANISED. OF THE TOTAL, 299 CLASSES WILL BE FOR BEGINNERS, 34 FOR SWIMMERS OF INTERMEDIATE LEVEL AND EIGHT FOR THOSE OF ADVANCED LEVEL.

EACH SERIES WILL LAST FOR FIVE WEEKS WITH THREE ONE-HOUR SESSIONS PER WEEK.

THE FIRST SERIES WILL COMMENCE ON APRIL 15 AND ENROLMENT WILL BE ACCEPTED AS FROM SATURDAY (APRIL 6).

DETAILS OF ENROLMENT ARE CONTAINED IN THE APPLICATION FORMS WHICH ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE COUNCIL'S VARIOUS SWIMMING POOL COMPLEXES. ENTRY FEE FOR EACH APPLICANT IS \$20.

THOSE INTERESTED SHOULD APPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON A FIRST-COME FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

THE OTHER FIVE SERIES WILL START ON MAY 20, JUNE 24, JULY 29, SEPTEMBER 2 AND OCTOBER 14 RESPECTIVELY. ENROLMENT WILL BE ACCEPTED A WEEK BEFORE THE START OF EACH SERIES.

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EXHUMATION WORK TO BEGIN
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ALL HUMAN REMAINS BURIED IN THE GRAVES OF FOUR PUBLIC CEMETERIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND OUTLYING ISLANDS IN 1978 ARE NOW DUE FOR EXHUMATION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID A TOTAL OF 9 255 GRAVES AT THESE PUBLIC CEMETERIES WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THIS YEAR'S EXHUMATION EXERCISE. OF THESE, 7 306 ARE AT WO HOP SHEK CEMETERY, 989 AT SANDY RIDGE CEMETERY, 666 AT SANDY RIDGE URN CEMETERY AND 294 AT CHEUNG CHAU CEMETERY.

A NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REMOVE AND DISPOSE OF HUMAN REMAINS FROM THE FOUR PUBLIC CEMETERIES IS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE ANNUAL RECYCLE EXERCISE TO RECOVER THE GRAVE SPACES FROM PUBLIC CEMETERIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES ORDINANCE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO HAVE FAMILY MEMBERS BURIED IN THESE GRAVES ARE ADVISED TO PROCEED WITH THE EXHUMATION BEFORE APRIL 30 (TUESDAY).

THEY SHOULD FIRST APPLY FOR AN EXHUMATION PERMIT AT THE CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIA OFFICE OF THE RSD AT 6 CHEONG HANG ROAD, HUNG HOM, KOWLOON.

THE EXHUMED REMAINS CAN BE RE-BURIED IN THE URN SECTION OF PUBLIC CEMETERIES, OR AFTER CREMATION, ITS ASHES DEPOSITED AT A GOVERNMENT OR PRIVATE COLUMBARIUM OR KEPT AT HOME.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID HUMAN REMAINS WHICH WERE NOT REMOVED AFTER APRIL 30 WOULD BE EXHUMED AND CREMATED AT A GOVERNMENT CREMATORIUM AND THE ASHES WOULD BE RE-BURIED AT THE SANDY RIDGE URN CEMETERY OR OTHER PUBLIC URN CEMETERY.

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NEW ID CARDS FOR MEN BORN 1941 - 1944
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MEN BORN BETWEEN 1941 AND 1944 WILL BE REQUIRED TO APPLY FOR NEW IDENTITY CARDS FROM APRIL 15 TO MAY 18 THIS YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SAID ABOUT 110 000 PEOPLE WOULD BE AFFECTED IN THIS PHASE.

THEY MUST BRING ALONG THEIR OLD ID CARDS WHEN THEY CALL AT ANY ONE OF THE EIGHT ISSUE OFFICES.

/THESE OFFICES

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THESE OFFICES ARE OPEN FROM 8 AM TO 9.30 PM, MONDAYS TO SATURDAYS, AND THEIR ADDRESSES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- HONG KONG : BASEMENT, 151 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WANCHAI.
EAST KOWLOON : AMOY GARDEN PLAZA, 2ND FLOOR, 77 NGAU TAU KOK ROAD.
WEST KOWLOON : CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 2ND FLOOR, 393 CANTON ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI.
TSUEN WAN : EAST ASIA COMMERCIAL CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, 29-37 TSUEN FU STREET.
SHATIN : SHATIN CENTRE, PODIUM FLOOR, 2-16 WANG POK STREET.
YUEN LONG : HOP YICK CENTRE, 2ND FLOOR, 31 HOP YICK ROAD.
TUEN MUN : CHI LOK COMMERCIAL CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, CHI LOK FA YUEN.
SHEUNG SHUI : TSUEN WO TAI LAU, GROUND FLOOR, 82-84 SAN FUNG AVENUE, SHEK WU HUI.

THE SPOKESMAN REMINDED APPLICANTS THAT THEY COULD MAKE USE OF THE MAIL-IN APPOINTMENT SERVICE IF THEY WISH TO VISIT A SPECIFIC OFFICE ON A PARTICULAR DAY.

+BUT THEY WILL HAVE TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FORM WHICH IS AVAILABLE AT ANY DISTRICT OFFICE OR IMMIGRATION OFFICE, AND RETURN IT TO THE ISSUE OFFICE OF THEIR CHOICE AT LEAST 10 DAYS BEFORE THE END OF THE PHASE,+ HE SAID.

HE REITERATED THAT NO AMNESTY WOULD BE GRANTED TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO WOULD BE REPATRIATED UPON DETECTION.

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REMINDER FOR 'CLEAN AND GREEN' PARTICIPANTS
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PARTICIPANTS OF THE +CLEAN AND GREEN SCHEME+ WHO HAVE COMPLETED STAGE I OF THE SCHEME ARE TODAY REMINDED TO TAKE PART IN STAGE II WHICH HAS BEGUN.

DURING THE SECOND STAGE, THEY WILL EACH BE REQUIRED TO PLANT A TREE ON ANY DAY DURING THE EASTER HOLIDAYS (APRIL 5 - 8) OR ON THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY (APRIL 14).

/THE TREE

THE TREE MUST BE PLANTED IN ANY ONE OF THE SIX SELECTED COUNTRY PARKS IN QUARRY BAY, POK FU LAM, TWISK, BRIDE'S POOL, PAK TAM CHUNG AND NAM SHAN BETWEEN 9 AM AND 4 PM.

+THE PARTICIPANT SHOULD PRODUCE HIS PASS CARD TO THE STAFF OF THE REPORTING POST FOR IT TO BE STAMPED. AT THE SAME TIME, HE WILL BE GIVEN A SEEDLING AND A SET OF PLANTING EQUIPMENT,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CLEAN AND GREEN SCHEME WORKING GROUP SAID.

THOSE COMPLETING THE TREE-PLANTING STAGE, WILL BE ENTITLED TO TAKE PART IN A LUCKY DRAW, WHEN 250 PEOPLE WILL BE CHOSEN FOR A FREE PICNIC AT CHEUNG SHEUNG, SAI KUNG, ON APRIL 28.

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GROUP AIMS TO PROMOTE INDUSTRY
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FACTORY OPERATORS AND INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS ARE URGED TO JOIN THE EASTERN DISTRICT INDUSTRIALISTS ASSOCIATION TO PROMOTE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE DISTRICT.

+THE AIM OF THE ASSOCIATION IS TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRY, AND TO LIAISE WITH INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS IN THE DISTRICT TO WORK TOGETHER IN SUPPORT OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE SAID.

+WE WELCOME PEOPLE FROM VARIOUS TRADES TO JOIN THE ASSOCIATION SO THAT IT CAN BE MORE REPRESENTATIVE IN LOOKING AFTER THE INTERESTS OF THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR IN THE DISTRICT,+ HE SAID.

THE ASSOCIATION, A NON-PROFIT MAKING ORGANISATION, HAS TWO CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP: ORDINARY AND AFFILIATED MEMBERS.

ORDINARY MEMBERS ARE REQUIRED TO PAY \$300 ENTRANCE FEE AND AN ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION OF \$200, WHILE THE ENTRANCE FEE AND ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FOR AFFILIATED MEMBERS ARE \$100 EACH.

THE DISTRICT OFFICE WILL SEND OUT LETTERS, INTRODUCTORY NOTES AND APPLICATION FORMS TO MORE THAN 3 000 FACTORIES AND COMPANIES IN THE DISTRICT, EXPLAINING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION AND URGING THEM TO JOIN.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE AND ITS SUB-OFFICES. FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT THE EASTERN DISTRICT INDUSTRIALISTS ASSOCIATION CAN BE OBTAINED FROM MR BILLY KO ON 5-573265.

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THREE SITES OFFERED FOR RENT
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TENDERS ARE BEING SOUGHT BY THE LANDS DEPARTMENT FOR THE SHORT TERM TENANCIES OF THREE SITES.

THE FIRST SITE AT HIP WO STREET, KWUN TONG, IS FOR STORING GOODS, CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL.

THE TENANCY FOR THE 7 000-SQUARE-METRE SITE IS FOR ONE YEAR AND IS RENEWABLE QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

THE OTHER TWO SITES ARE AT FAU TSOI STREET, YUEN LONG. THEY MEASURE 4 574 AND 4 989 SQUARE METRES, AND ARE FOR USE AS FEE-CHARGING CAR PARKS ON A THREE-MONTH TENANCY, RENEWABLE MONTHLY.

TENDERS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY APRIL 19.

TENDER FORMS, NOTICES AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, SURVEY DIVISION, MURRAY BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON; AND DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, YUEN LONG, YUEN LONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND TAI KIU MARKET, 2 KIU LOK SQUARE, YUEN LONG, NEW TERRITORIES FOR THE YUEN LONG SITES.

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SERVICE LANE DECLARED PUBLIC
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THE PRIVATE SECTION OF THE SERVICE LANE AT CHUNG KING MANSIONS IN KOWLOON WAS DECLARED PUBLIC TODAY, IN A NOTICE PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GAZETTE.

THE LANE IS LOCATED AT THE SIDES AND REAR OF 36 - 44 NATHAN ROAD.

AS THE LANE HAS NOT BEEN PROPERLY MAINTAINED AND IS COVERED BY VARIOUS UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES, IT IS INCONVENIENT TO THE PERSONS USING THE LANE AS A PASSAGE WAY AND HAS CREATED A DANGEROUS FIRE HAZARD.

THE GOVERNMENT IS TAKING OVER THE LANE UNDER PART V OF THE CROWN LAND ORDINANCE FOR FUTURE MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE, WHICH WILL INITIALLY ENTAIL THE CLEARANCE OF THE UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES.

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CONCERT MARKS YOUTH YEAR

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THE HONG KONG YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (B) WILL PRESENT A SYMPHONIC CONCERT AT THE AUDITORIUM OF TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL ON SATURDAY (APRIL 6) AT 8 PM.

THE CONCERT IS JOINTLY PRESENTED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE AND THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO MARK THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR.

IT WILL FEATURE BEETHOVEN'S OVERTURE TO 'KING STEPHEN' OP. 117, STRAUSS JR.'S TALES FROM THE VIENNA WOODS - WALTZ OP. 325, ARNOLD'S LITTLE SUITE FOR ORCHESTRA NO.1 OP.53 AND MENDELSSOHN'S SYMPHONY NO.3 IN A MINOR OP.56 'SCOTCH'.

MR LUI KI-LING AND MR STEVEN WONG WILL BE CONDUCTING THE YOUNG INSTRUMENTALISTS OF THE ORCHESTRA.

TICKETS AT \$5 EACH ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL MUSIC CENTRES OF THE MUSIC OFFICE AND TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL BOX OFFICE. FOR ENQUIRIES PLEASE CALL 0-750465.

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NEW DATES SET FOR PUBLIC SESSION

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YAU MA TEI DISTRICT BOARD'S +MEET THE PUBLIC+ SESSION WILL HAVE A NEW ARRANGEMENT STARTING APRIL 10 (WEDNESDAY).

DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL MEET THE PUBLIC ON EVERY WEDNESDAY INSTEAD OF FRIDAY, FROM 6.30 PM TO 8.30 PM IN THE YAU MA TEI DISTRICT OFFICE AT 490-492 NATHAN ROAD, HOP FAT COMMERCIAL CENTRE. RESIDENTS WHO WANT TO LODGE COMPLAINTS OR AIR THEIR VIEWS CAN MAKE AN APPOINTMENT BY CALLING 3-323791.

THE FIRST TWO DB MEMBERS ON DUTY WILL BE MR CHIU YU-HEI AND MR LAI WING-TAK.

THE SESSIONS STARTED IN NOVEMBER 1982 TO PROVIDE A CHANNEL FOR THE PUBLIC TO REFLECT PROBLEMS TO THE DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS.

ABOUT 400 CASES WERE HANDLED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS SINCE THE SESSIONS BEGAN.

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LANE TO BE CLOSED FOR ROAD WORKS

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO CLOSE A SECTION OF LAI WO LANE TOGETHER WITH A FOOTPATH LINKING THE EASTERN END OF THE LANE TO SUI WO ROAD, TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW VEHICLE TURN-AROUND AT THE SOUTHERN END OF LAI WO LANE.

THE AREA TO BE CLOSED WILL SUBSEQUENTLY BE INCLUDED WITHIN A NEW LOT WHICH WILL BE GRANTED TO THE ENGLISH SCHOOLS FOUNDATION AS A SITE FOR A SECONDARY SCHOOL AND A JUNIOR SCHOOL. THE SECONDARY SCHOOL IS CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION ON PART OF THE LOT.

A NOTICE CONCERNING THE PROPOSED WORK IS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (THURSDAY).

A PLAN SHOWING THE PROPOSED WORK CAN BE SEEN AT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, MAIN ENTRANCE LOBBY; AT THE SHA TIN DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, 2 TUNG LO WAN HILL ROAD, SHA TIN, NEW TERRITORIES AND AT THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE, 6TH FLOOR, KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN STATION, NEW TERRITORIES.

ANY OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSAL MUST REACH THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS WITHIN TWO MONTHS.

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HOLIDAY NEWS SERVICE

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THE DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED DURING THE EASTER HOLIDAYS -- FROM APRIL 5 TO 8.

HOWEVER, THERE WILL BE NO INTERRUPTION OF THE DAILY NEWS SERVICE, WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO BE TRANSMITTED AS USUAL BY TELEPRINTER AND FACSIMILE NETWORK THROUGHOUT THE HOLIDAYS.

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